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UNITED STATES
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION V
230 SOUTH DEARBORN ST.
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604

REPLY TO ATTENTION OF:

SEP 27 1984

Mr. Sam McWilliams
Plant Manager
Ethyl Corporation
Sauget, IL 62201

Dear Mr. McWilliams:

On August 23, I visited your facility to observe the work which was completed in the Unit 268 area and to inspect the covering placed over the contaminated soil in the northwest corner of the property. During my visit I took approximately thirty photographs. The photographs were intended to be used to help me recall the condition of the areas of concern at the time of my visit.

I had made an arrangement with Jim Sparks, of your staff, in which he would allow me to take photographs without contest if I would allow him to develop them. The agreement we reached was that if the photographs inadvertently contained proprietary information which Edwin Cooper would not want released to the general public Mr. Sparks could keep the photographs.

In a letter September 17, 1984, from Mr. Sparks, he indicated to me that several of these photographs had been removed. I see that not only are several photographs missing but the respective negatives have been held as well.

I telephoned Mr. Sparks on September 21 to inquire as to why the photographs were held. Mr. Sparks indicated that two of the photos showed loose barrels on their sides and gave an impression of the plant that was misleading. There was also a photo or two of the Monsanto Plant that was held. He indicated that Monsanto may not view Edwin Cooper favorably if EPA inspectors were allowed to take photographs of Monsanto's facility from within Edwin Cooper's facility. Mr. Sparks also stated that he has the photographs in his possession.

I request that these photographs and their respective negatives be sent to me. I had taken the photographs of the Unit 268 area to help me recall the position of newly laid asphalt and tanks, not to show empty barrels on their sides. If you would care to provide a letter to U.S. EPA explaining that the existence of empty barrels in this location are of no consequence but could give a misleading impression, I'm sure your concerns could be satisfied. The photographs of Monsanto's facility interest me in terms of air emissions, but would not be used as proof of a violation even if one does exist. In any case none of the photographs were held for reasons of concern regarding disclosure of proprietary information. I would greatly appreciate the return of the photographs and the negatives.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dan Hopkins".

Dan Hopkins
On Scene Coordinator